

[TEMPO 0319822 0201318Z FRP]

17

16/ /

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FRP: , , , 4 , 6 , ,

STATE

25X1

83 0319822 SCO

PAGE 001

NC 0319822

TOR: 201210Z JAN 83

OO RUEAIIB

ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH

ST03278

OO RUEHC

DE RUDKGPQ #0470/01 0201115

ZNY CCCCC ZZH

O 201113Z JAN 83

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8173

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO IMMEDIATE 0599

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 00470

EO 12356 N/A

TAGS: PEPR, NS, NL, US

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS OF U.S. MERCENARY - SURINAMESE

EXILE GROUPS PLANS TO INVADE SURINAME

REF: (A) THE HAGUE 456, (B) HABIB-LYSYSKYN TELECONS OF 1/19

1. (LOU) JANUARY 20 EDITION OF DUTCH DAILY VOLKSKRANT CARRIES BANNER HEADLINE REPORTING THAT SURINAMESE IN U.S. ARE PLANNING INVASION OF SURINAME WITH HELP OF AMERICAN MERCENARIES. REPORT IS BASED LARGELY ON ANP STORY OUTLINED IN REFTELS.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE

1

83 0319822

SCO

PAGE 002

NC 0319822

TOR: 201210Z JAN 83

2. (U) FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF VOLKSKRANT ARTICLE:

SURINAMESE IN THE U.S. ARE PREPARING, WITH THE AID OF AMERICAN MERCENARIES, AN INVASION OF SURINAME IN ORDER TO BRING DOWN THE BOUTERSE REGIME. THE SURINAMESE IN THE U.S. HAVE HAD CONTACTS WITH SURINAMESE GROUPS IN THE NETHERLANDS IN ORDER TO OBTAIN SUPPORT FOR THIS OPERATION. THIS WAS CONFIRMED WEDNESDAY EVENING (JANUARY 19) BY A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE FOR THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN SURINAME. THE SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED ANP REPORTS THAT THE SURINAMESE HAVE ALREADY TALKED TO AN AMERICAN, A VIETNAM-VETERAN, WHO HAS AMPLE EXPERIENCE IN LEADING MILITARY OPERATIONS WITH MERCENARIES IN LATIN AMERICA. THIS AMERICAN IS THE DIRECTOR OF A TRAINING CENTER FOR MERCENARIES. THE MAN, WHO WISHES TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS, TOLD THE ANP HE WAS "UNABLE TO COMMENT ON CURRENT OPERATIONS." HE WOULD ONLY GIVE MORE INFORMATION IF THE SURINAMESE INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION PERMITTED HIM TO DO SO. TELEPHONE CALLS TO A NUMBER OF SURINAMESE ORGANIZATIONS IN THE NETHERLANDS INDICATE THAT THEY WERE NOT INFORMED ABOUT SURINAMESE GROUPS IN THE U.S. BUT THEY CONSIDERED IT "QUITE POSSIBLE" THAT ONE OF THESE GROUPS IS PREPARING VIOLENT ACTIONS IN THE U.S. IN ORDER TO BRING DOWN BOUTERSE. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE LOSON NATIONAL CONSULTATION GROUP OF SURINAMESE IN THE NETHERLANDS DECLARED THAT "PEOPLE IN SURINAME ARE EXPECTING SOMETHING TO HAPPEN ANY MOMENT NOW." ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, FORT ZEELANDIA HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A KIND OF BUNKER AND THE MILITARY STATIONED THERE ARE ON THE ALERT.

THE COMMITTEE FOR THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN SURINAME WAS THE ONLY GROUP TO HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SURINAMESE IN THE U.S. AND TO HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF PREPARATIONS FOR AN INVASION. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE COMMITTEE, THE MOST MILITANT IN THE NETHERLANDS, DECLARED THAT HE WILL TRAVEL TO THE U.S. IN ORDER TO BE PRESENT AT FURTHER TALKS. "IF YOU CALL ME TOMORROW, YOU WILL KNOW WHETHER I AM STILL HERE," HE SAID. ASKED WHETHER HE WAS TAKING THE PLANS IN AMERICA SERIOUSLY, HE REPLIED: "I TAKE THEM TERRIBLY SERIOUSLY; I INVITE YOU TO BE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE

1

83 0319822

SCO

PAGE 003

NC 0319822

TOR: 201210Z JAN 83

PRESENT WHEN HELL BREAKS OUT IN SURINAME; I WILL WARN
YOU IN ADVANCE."

THE CONTACTS BETWEEN SURINAMESE IN THE U.S. AND THE
AMERICAN MERCENARY TOOK PLACE IN MIAMI ON DECEMBER 19
AND JANUARY 2. A SPOKESMAN, WHO TOLD THE ANP THAT HE
WAS PRESENT AT THESE TALKS, DECLARED THAT THE FINANCIAL
WISHES OF THE AMERICAN DID NOT MEET WITH OBJECTIONS.
THE AMERICAN REQUESTED A GUARANTEED SUM OF 1.5 MILLION
DOLLARS, AN AMOUNT WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN PAID, AND ANOTHER
TEN TO TWELVE MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE ENTIRE OPERATION.
THIS AMOUNT WOULD BE PAID IN INSTALLMENTS AFTER THE
INVASION. ACCORDING TO THE COMMITTEE FOR THE
RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN SURINAME, THIS SUM WILL BE
PAID FOR BY AMERICAN COMPANIES WITH INTERESTS IN SURINAME.
COMMITMENTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE, A SPOKESMAN STATED.
ONE ALSO COUNTS ON THE ASSISTANCE OF RICH SURINAMESE
IN THE U.S. IN THE NETHERLANDS, NO COMMITMENTS HAVE
BEEN MADE, "BUT WE ARE WORKING ON IT," THE SPOKESMAN
SAID.

THE INTENTION IS FOR THE AMERICAN MERCENARY TO WORK
OUT A MILITARY PLAN, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A NUMBER OF
FORMER SURINAMESE SOLDIERS. THE AMERICAN IS SUPPOSED
TO KNOW HIS WAY AROUND THE INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRADE.
"THE CARRYING OUT OF AN INVASION IS A QUESTION OF WEEKS
RATHER THAN OF MONTHS," A SURINAMESE NEGOTIATOR IN THE
U.S. STATED.

THE SPOKESMAN OF THE EARLIER MENTIONED COMMITTEE CONFIRMS
THIS STATEMENT: "WE DO NOT DO BUSINESS WITH GROUPS
WHICH DO NOT INTEND TO OVERTHROW BOUTERSE IN THE SHORT
TERM." ALTHOUGH THIS COMMITTEE IS PART OF CHIN A SEN'S
LIBERATION COUNCIL, WHICH ADVOCATES NON-VIOLENT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 THE HAGUE 00470

NEARS, THE COMMITTEE HAS LITTLE CONFIDENCE IN THE POSSI-
BILITY OF BRINGING DOWN BOUTERSE BY POLITICAL AND
DIPLOMATIC ACTIONS. "WE SUPPORT CHIN A SEN, BUT WE ALSO
CLAIM THE RIGHT TO INDEPENDENT ACTIONS," THE SPOKESMAN
COMMENTED. ASKED WHETHER IT IS NOT STRANGE TO MAKE THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

STATE

1

83 0319822 SCO

PAGE 004

NC 0319822

TOR: 201210Z JAN 83

INVASION PLAN PUBLIC IN ADVANCE, THE NEGOTIATOR SAID IT IS A GOOD THING THAT THE SURINAMESE POPULATION AND ARMY ALREADY KNOW WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN SO THAT IT WILL BE PREPARED AND CAN SUPPORT THE OPERATION.

OUR CORRESPONDENT FROM NEW YORK CONFIRMS THE EXISTENCE OF MERCENARY ORGANIZATIONS, PRIMARILY IN FLORIDA. MANY VIETNAM VETERANS MAKE A LIVING FROM CLANDESTINE WARFARE. THERE ARE EVEN TWO SPECIALIZED MAGAZINES, WHICH INCLUDE PERSONNEL ADS FOR MERCENARIES. IN THE NATURE PRESERVES IN FLORIDA, MERCENARY GROUPS STAGE COMPLETE MILITARY EXERCISES. ONE OF THE MOST-WELL-KNOWN MERCENARY LEADERS IS A CUBAN, JORGE GONZALEZ, WHO NOW LIVES IN THE U.S. AND WHO IS BETTER KNOWN AS "BOMBILLO."

AN NOS RADIO-PROGRAM REPORTED THAT BOURTERSE'S SUPPORTERS CIRCULATED PLANS FOR AN OCCUPATION OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN PARAMARIBO, COMPARABLE TO THE ONE IN TEHRAN. THE PLAN IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN ABANDONED. END TEXT.

3. (U) THE DUTCH DAILY TROUW CARRIED A REACTION FROM CHIN A SEN (DATELINED PITTSBURGH) ON THE MILITARY INVASION PLAN. HE SAID: "WITH MERCENARY ARMIES, YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE STARTING WITH, BUT YOU DO NOT KNOW WHERE YOU WILL END UP." HE CONFIRMED HAVING RECEIVED MANY OFFERS FOR ARMED ASSISTANCE BY TELEPHONE.

4. (U) ANOTHER DUTCH DAILY, THE ALGEMEEN DAGBLAD, REPORTS ON JANUARY 20 THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF AN AMERICAN VIETNAM VETERAN'S ORGANIZATION CONSULTED WITH A REP FROM THE COMMITTEE FOR THE RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY IN SURINAME AT THE PROMENADE HOTEL IN THE HAGUE THE EVENING OF JANUARY 19. DYESS

END OF MESSAGE

CONFIDENTIAL